The project aimed at increasing the interest rate from initial 5% to about 9-10% during the three years period. Under this project, vendors offered solar home lighting systems with set technical specifications, warranties and five year maintenance contract to cover the period of loan. Banks worked closely with vendors to assess credit risk and process loan applications.

Under another project implemented by TERI in the Tehri-Garhwal and Dehradun Districts of Uttaranchal and Bikaner District of Rajasthan about 2,500 solar lighting systems have been installed. Initiated in 1999, the project was funded by the India-Canada Environment Facility. This project focused on developing a grass-root energy service network, comprising local NGOs, dealers and retailers etc. This networking was facilitated and coordinated by TERI, which had also focussed on capacity enhancement.

(d) The Ministry has announced a scheme to provide soft loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, at 5 per cent annual interest rate, for purchase of solar photovoltaic systems. In addition, the Ministry is also providing support to the research organizations and industry for reducing the cost of solar energy devices and systems so that subsidy can be reduced/phased out.

Workshop on 'Renewable Energy Options'

3870. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had organized a workshop on 'Renewable Energy Options' for BISTEC and ASEAN countries in December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow up action taken so far in pursuance of the decisions taken in the said workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. An International Training Programme on 'Renewable Energy

Options' was organized for senior/middle level energy sector officials from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and ASEAN member counties during 6—18 December, 2004.

(b) and (c) The Training Programme which was attended by 19 participants from 10 member countries covered issues relating to development and deployment of new and renewable energy systems/ devices.

As a follow up, BIMSTEC Renewable Energy Expert Group Meeting was organized during 15-16 September, 2005 at New Delhi when possible areas/activities for cooperation were identified. The identified areas/activities for cooperation were identified. The identified areas/activities were adopted in the Plan of Action for cooperation in the BIMSTEC Energy Minister's Conference held on 4 October, 2005 in New Delhi. Interaction with member countries for pursuing cooperation activities is an on-going process.

Energy generation from non-conventional energy sources

3871. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRJ SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target of energy generation from non-conventional energy sources to be achieved under current Plan and what is the current.
level that has been achieved;

(b) the average per unit cost of generating energy from non-conventional sources; and

(c) whether Government plan to bring down cost of generation of such power particularly in view of recommendations in Mid Term Appraisal of current Plan to reduce subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Against a target for installed capacity of grid-interactive renewable power of 3075 MW for the Tenth Plan period, 4650 MW installed capacity has been set up during the first four years of the said plan period.